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TAGS: MB, EGEN,ENRG
SUBJECT: FRENCH PRESS ON MARTINIQUE MEETING

1.COMMENTARIES ON THE MARTINIQUE SUMMIT IN THE FRENCH NON-COMMUNIST PAPERS WERE GENERALLY CAUTIOUS. (AN EXCEPTION WAS COMMUNIST HUMANITE, WHICH DENOUNCED FRANCE'S ALLEGED "RETURN TO ATLANTICISM"). SOME RADIO COMMENTATORS SHOWED LESS RESTRAINT THAN THE PAPERS. JEAN FERNIOT,FOR EXAMPLE, SAID ON RADIO LUXEMBOURG TUESDAY MORNING:"FRANCE BECOMES AMERICAN AGAIN. I PERSONALLY NEVER BELIEVED THAT FRANCE COULD LONG AFFORD TO OPPOSE BOTH EUROPE AND THE U.S. ONLY IN CHIVALRIC NOVELS DID HEROES FIGHT WINDMILLS,AND THE WIND THAT IS BLOWING IS STRONGER THAN SPEARS."

2. THE WARMING IN FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS WAS WIDELY SEEN AS THE MAIN RESULT OF THE SUMMIT AND WELCOMED. THE FRELOC SETTLEMENT WAS SEEN AS SYMBOLIC OF THE IMPROVE-MENT IN RELATIONS. THE COMPROMISE ON ENERGY WAS WIDELY DISCUSSED, BUT COMMENTATORS GENERALLY KEPT THEIR
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FINGERS CROSSED AS TO ITS REAL SIGNIFICANCE. THE

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AGREEMENT ON GOLD HOLDINGS WAS PLAYED UP BY ADVOCATES OF THE GOLD-STANDARD, SUCH AS GAULLIST PARISIEN LIBER BUT NOT CONSIDERED WORTH MENTIONING BY OTHERS.

3. IN THE OPINION OF MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD FIGARO, THE MAJOR RESULT OF THE MARTINIQUE SUMMIT IS THAT "IT MARKS TNE END OF THE ERA OF QUARRELS BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES." YET, THE PAPER ADDED, "THE RAPPROCHE-MENT OF VIEWPOINTS DOES NOT MEAN THAT ALL DIVERGENCIES HAVE MIRACULOUSLY BEEN OVERCOME, FAR FROM IT. ON ENER-GY IN PARTICULAR, THERE IS STILL ONLYTHE VERY ROUGH OUTLINE OF A COMPROMISE, AND THE AMERICAN CONCESSIONS ON GOLD ARE NOT WORTHY OF THE NAME. YET THE SPIR$T OF FORT-DE-FRANCE IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE LETTER OF THE COMMUNIQUE. IT EVIDENTLY REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE SUCCESS OF THIS CARIBBEAN SUMMIT IS COMPAT-IBLE IN THE LONG RUN WITH THAT OF THE RAMBOUILLET SUM-MIT. AFTER REVIVING FRANCO-SOVIET RELATIONS, GISCARD HAS WARMED UP RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE US. HE ACCOMPLISHED A REAL FEAT AT THE END OF HIS FIRST DIPLOMATIC FORTNIGHT. BUT THIS EQUILIBRIUM MIGHT RAPID-LY TURN INTO AN EXERCISE IN TIGHT ROPE WALKING."

4. INDEPENDENT LE MONDE SAID "PRESIDENT GISCARD HA TWO OBJECTIVES IN MIND WHEN HE LEFT FOR MARTINIQUE: TO WIPE OUT FRANCO-AMERICAN DIFFERENCES INHERITED FROM GEN.DE GAULLE, AND TO ESTABSH WITH THE U.S. A WORKING ARRANGEMENT TO COPE WITH THE PRESENT ACUTE OIL CRISIS AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN THE WEST. THE FORMER OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN LARGELY ATTAINED. THE RESULT OF THE MARTINIQUE TALKS ON OIL ARE MORE DIFFICULT TO APPRAISE. THE COMPROMISE IS INDEED CLEVERLY CONSTRUCTED. EVERY-ONE CAN SEE IT HIS OWN WAY, BUT SERIOUS AMBIGUITIES REMAIN AND THE COMMENTARIES WHICH MESSRS. GISCARD AND KISSINGER MADE ON IT SHOW THAT THE MOTIVES OF THE TWO PARTIES ARE NOT IDENTICAL. WHAT MATTERS NOW IS TO KNOW WHAT THE THIRD PARTY, THE ONE WHO HAS THE OIL TAPS IN HAND, THINKS OF THE DIPLOMATIC MACHI-NERY ROUGHLY OUTLINED IN MARTINIQUE."

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5. SOME NEWSPAPERS, SUCH AS FRANCE SOIR, DID NOT MAKE ANY REAL COMMENT OF THEIR OWN,BUT, ALONG WITH OTHER PAPERS, REPORTED FAVORABLE INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS.
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